

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Christoph Keller et al.

APPLICATION NO.: Unassigned

FILING DATE: February 20, 2002

TITLE: A COMPARTMENT FOR POWDER COATING OF
WORKPIECES

EXAMINER: Unassigned

GROUP ART UNIT: Unassigned

ATTY. DKT. NO.: 20649-06610

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Dated: 2/20/02

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the Convention application for the patent identified above, please amend this application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, lines 5 and 6 replace the paragraph with the following:

Field of the Invention:

The invention relates to a compartment for powder coating workpieces.

Page 1, line 7 replace the paragraph with the following:

Background of the Invention:

Such compartments have been known and used for a long time. The interior of the compartments is limited by sidewalls, end walls at both ends, a compartment floor, and a compartment roof which is divided by a longitudinal gap. Usually the workpieces are moved through this longitudinal gap by means of a conveyor. To permit such conveyance, the compartment has an aperture for workpieces at least in its upstream end wall. Often a manual coating station is provided next to the compartment at the side thereof and adjacent the upstream end wall. There is an opening in the sidewall of the compartment that belongs to this manual coating station. Through the opening an operator can prime areas of the workpiece which are difficult to coat or need a prime coat by manipulating a hand spray gun inside the compartment and upstream of the automatic coating, in conveying direction of the workpieces. If desired or required, a second manual coating station is provided, likewise laterally of the compartment, downstream of the automatic coating of the workpieces, in conveying direction of the workpieces. Any insufficiently coated and/or complicated areas of the workpieces thus may be recoated manually, as needed, inside the compartment by a person acting from this other manual coating station.

Page 2, replace the second paragraph with the following:

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the invention to design a compartment of the kind defined initially such that the escape of powder particles into the environment of the

compartment is reduced while unobstructed, high-quality manual coating still can be achieved economically, i.e. especially, without increasing the suction effect.

Page 2, delete the third paragraph.

Page 3, delete the second paragraph.

Page 3, replace the fourth paragraph with the following:

Brief Description of the Drawings:

The invention will be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Page 3, replace the last paragraph with the following:

Detailed Description of the Invention:

The compartment illustrated in the drawings serves for coating of workpieces W, indicated in dash-dot lines, which are moved continuously or in stepwise fashion through the compartment in the direction of the respective arrow along a conveying direction or path T, likewise drawn in dash-dot lines. The compartment has two sidewalls 2 formed with oblong vertical holes 4 to permit passage of vertically movable automatic powder spray guns 6 indicated in fig. 1.

Page 5, delete the last paragraph.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification merely to delete objectionable clauses and to conform the specification to acceptable format in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.77.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTOPH KELLER ET AL.

Dated: 2/20/02

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